

Argentina: 1816. By BENITO MARIANETTI *et al.* Buenos Aires, 1966. Editorial Cartago. Illustrations. Notes. Pp. 155. Paper. \$1.25.

The sesquicentennial celebration of Argentine independence inspired the publication of the four essays comprising this volume. Each author accepts the Lenin-Marxist view of history and interprets his country's movement for independence within that framework. Each writer utilizes well-known studies on the period and interprets them without the support of new documents. Each one praises the lives of some of the founding fathers but maintains that the traditional historians have failed to present the patriotic roles of such leaders as José de San Martín in their true light. Yet each essay contributes little that is new to the complex story of Argentine national beginnings.

Benito Marianetti recounts the role of Tomás Godoy Cruz in the movement for independence, emphasizing his ties with San Martín and the Lautaro Lodge. Leonardo Paso's essay considers some international aspects of the struggle for independence, depicting the interests of Great Britain and France in that struggle as motivated mainly by the economic requirements of their developing capitalism.

San Martín's political role in the events leading to the meeting of the Congress of Tucumán is stressed in Damián Ferrer's contribution to this volume. To him San Martín was a centralist and a republican at heart, a friend of the Negro slave and the common man, and one who was ideologically closer to the *morenistas* than to the Porteños or provincial conservatives.

Miguel C. Lombardi's brief essay on the effect of the Congress of Tucumán on later Argentine national organization concludes that the successors of the conservatives who dominated the Congress in 1816 were able to unify the nation by 1860, but at a high price. The interests of the oligarchy prevented the development of native capitalism thus permitting the economic development of Argentina to fall into the hands of the imperialist, capitalist nations.

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Proclamación y jura de la independencia en Buenos Aires y las provincias. By EMILIO A. BREDA. Buenos Aires, 1966. Casa Pardo. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Indices. Pp. 255. Paper. \$2.50.

On July 9, 1816, the Congress of Tucumán declared the independence of the "Provincias Unidas de Sud-América," and drafted the

oath of allegiance which all must take to the new nation, the "Provincias Unidas en Sud-América." How independence was proclaimed and celebrated and when the oath was administered in the provinces of the former Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata are discussed in the well-documented and interesting little study reviewed here.

Records are not available for all cities. Also the area under the aegis of Artigas did not adhere to the congressional declaration, and Upper Peru was unable to act because it was overrun by Spanish troops. However, the author briefly describes what happened in the provincial capitals and some minor cities loyal to the Congress and free from enemy occupation. He emphasizes the city of Buenos Aires, where the ceremonies were delayed until mid-September because of heavy rains. The account of the events in the viceregal capital is based largely on a rare pamphlet written by Bartolomé Doroteo Muñoz in 1816 and on newspaper reports, and it includes a number of poems written for the occasion. Significantly, the account does not make clear whether the Supreme Director himself took the required oath.

Salta was the last province to pledge allegiance to the new state, because, the author maintains, its governor, Martín Güemes, was in the field until December, 1816. Rural militia units were involved in the ceremonies in Jujuy and Mendoza, and the rural authorities in San Luis, but elsewhere the rural inhabitants evidently were overlooked. Everywhere the clergy, regular and secular, endorsed independence with enthusiasm. Apparently, the oath was expected to accomplish two purposes: to oblige every one by a "religious act" to defend independence; and to restore unity and harmony among the people. Breda has answered many questions, and he has paved the way for a more intensive examination of the circumstances surrounding the congressional decision of July 9, 1816.

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NATIONAL PERIOD

Six Faces of Mexico. History, People, Geography, Government, Economy, Literature and Art. Edited by RUSSELL C. EWING. Tucson, 1966. University of Arizona Press. Illustrations. Maps. Tables. Notes. Bibliographies. Index. Pp. 320. \$10.00.

A collaborative enterprise by seven faculty members at the University of Arizona, *Six Faces of Mexico* is indicative of how fruitful